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Title Index

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Reports

Item#1
The Changing Military Balance in the Koreas and Northeast Asia. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman. March 25, 2015.

The report presents the changing military balance in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia. It covers the history and security strategies of the region, military force structure, spending and modernization, conventional and asymmetric forces, and the nuclear and missile forces that shape the balance in the Koreas. It supports this analysis with extensive maps, charts and tables describing the balance, and quotations from official sources.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/150325_Korea_Military_Balance.pdf [PDF format, 602 pages, 10.30 MB].

Item#2
The Ukraine-Russia Conflict. U.S. Institute of Peace. Lauren Van Metre et al. March 23, 2015.

Russia's annexation of Crimea and its military operations in Eastern Ukraine have overturned the post–Cold War norms that had provided stability and development for the former Soviet countries bordering Russia. As neighboring countries assess their own security situation based on Russia's aggressive practices in Ukraine and the West's response, they are actively testing the new contours of Russian and Western engagement, regional alliances and relationships, and regional conflict dynamics, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR366-The-Ukraine-Russia-Conflict.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages, 162.53 KB].

Item#3
Danger From the East: Bangladeshi Extremists Target India. YaleGlobal. Saroj Kumar Rath. March 26, 2015.

Some political parties try courting extremists, urging them to target political opponents. "Violent street contests between the cadres of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajid's Awami League and former Prime Minister Khalida Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party are weakening the country's nascent democracy and ceding space to extremist groups," writes Rath. "The extremists take advantage of political squabbles and power vacuums, as seen in Iraq, Syria and other troubled Muslim-majority countries." Some estimates suggest India has 20 million illegal immigrants, most from Bangladesh. Marginalized, many turn to extremist politics.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/danger-east-bangladeshi-extremists-target-india [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4
Under Modi, India Challenges Old Assumptions. YaleGlobal. Harsh V. Pant. March 12, 2015.

The US president's visit to India in January as the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations has imparted a new sense of dynamism to a relationship that was seemingly drifting in recent years. The possibilities engendered by the civilian nuclear agreement, announced in 2005 and concluded in 2008, were a thing past with the bilateral relationship becoming a victim of recriminations and unfulfilled expectations. Today the relationship stands on the threshold of new possibilities, and much of the credit for this remarkable turnaround should go to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who in a short eight months has given a new direction to Indian foreign policy, according to the brief.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/under-modi-india-challenges-old-assumptions [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5
Yemen at War. International Crisis Group. March 27, 2015.

Yemen is now at war. Fuelled by Saudi-Iranian rivalry and a violent jihadi upsurge, fighting is fragmenting the country and could spread beyond if parties do not immediately de-escalate and, with the support of Gulf neighbours, return to negotiations on a compromised, power-sharing leadership, says the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Iran%20Gulf/Yemen/b045-yemen-at-war.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages, 663.78 KB].

Item#6
Iran: U.S. Concerns and Policy Responses. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kenneth Katzman. March 18, 2015.

Since the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, a priority of U.S. policy has been to reduce the perceived threat posed by Iran to a broad range of U.S. interests. In 2014, a common enemy emerged in the form

of the Islamic State organization, reducing gaps in U.S. and Iranian interests, although the two countries have somewhat differing approaches over how to try to defeat the Islamic State.

http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/mideast/RL32048.pdf [PDF format, 74 pages, 822.7 KB].

Item#7
Political Parties in Afghanistan. U.S Institute of Peace. Anna Larson. March 11, 2015.

As Afghanistan's nascent democracy works to establish the rule of law across the country, it finds itself contending with the ways that Islamic law converges and diverges from the tribal norms that shape the settling of disputes outside Kabul. Based on surveys conducted in Afghanistan, this report examines the points of tension and agreement between Islamic and customary laws, looking into both of their pasts to suggest a way forward for the Afghan state, particularly in granting greater rights and protections to women.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR362-Political-Parties-in-Afghanistan.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages, 238.7 KB].

Item#8
The Recurring Rise and Fall of Political Islam. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Paul Salem. March 25, 2015.

Paul Salem chronicles and analyzes the shifting fortunes of political Islam in the region. For political Islamic groups, the past four years have been the best of years and the worst of years. In this period, the Arab world's oldest and largest political Islamic movement, the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), had its biggest ever victory in its homeland of Egypt, followed a year later by its biggest defeat. In the same period, a jihadi-salafi group, the Islamic State group (ISG), conquered large swaths of these two countries and announced the establishment of the Islamic State and the restoration of the caliphate in the person of its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/150325_Salem_RockyHarbors_chapter4.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages, 1.92 MB].

Item#9
Seventh Summit of the Americas: In Brief. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Peter J. Meyer. March 24, 2015.

On April 10-11, 2015, President Obama is scheduled to attend the seventh Summit of the Americas in Panama City, Panama. The Summits of the Americas, which have been held roughly every three years since 1994, serve as opportunities for the Western Hemisphere's leaders to engage directly with one another and discuss issues of collective concern. With Cuba expected to attend for the first time in 2015, the Summit of the Americas will be the only forum in the hemisphere that includes all 35 independent nations. The theme of the 2015 summit is "Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas." Although strengthening economic growth while reducing inequality will be one of the

principal topics of conversation, the leaders of the hemisphere are also expected to discuss a variety of other issues, including education, health, energy, the environment, migration, security, citizen participation, and democratic governance. This will be President Obama's third and final Summit of the Americas and could set the tone for hemispheric relations for the final two years of his Administration.

http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/row/R43952.pdf [PDF format, 10 pages, 252.9 KB].

Divided Europe Mired in Crises. YaleGlobal. Chris Miller. March 17, 2015.

For a few short decades, Europe was viewed as a model for human rights and economic security. Many Europeans were eager for the continent to become an influential geopolitical actor, acting independently of the United States, notes Chris Miller. But polarization within the Union and the institutional failure to address a series of economic and security challenges tarnish that model. Former Soviet states were drawn to the European human-rights and trade model, and Europe was caught by surprise after Russia annexed Crimea and intervened in eastern Ukraine. Miller concludes that whether subduing dictatorships and extremism in the Middle East, organizing a bailout and austerity programs for struggling members like Greece, or imposing sanctions on Russia, big political goals require unified institutional capabilities with clear lines of responsibility.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/divided-europe-mired-crises [HTML format, various paging].

U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces: Background, Developments, and Issues. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Amy F. Woolf. March 18, 2015.

Even though the United States plans to reduce the number of warheads deployed on its longrange missiles and bombers, consistent with the terms of the New START Treaty, it also plans to develop new delivery systems for deployment over the next 20-30 years. The 114th Congress will continue to review these programs, and the funding requested for them, during the annual authorization and appropriations process.

http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/nuke/RL33640.pdf [PDF format, 47 pages, 535.83 KB].

"Holds" in the Senate. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Mark J. Oleszek. March 19, 2015.

The Senate "hold" is an informal practice whereby Senators communicate to Senate leaders, often in the form of a letter, their policy views and scheduling preferences regarding measures and matters available for floor consideration. Unique to the upper chamber, holds can be understood as information-sharing devices predicated on the unanimous consent nature of Senate decisionmaking. Senators place holds to accomplish a variety of purposes—to receive notification of upcoming legislative proceedings, for instance, or to express objections to a particular proposal or executive nomination—but ultimately the decision to honor a hold request, and for how long, rests with the majority leader. Scheduling Senate

business is the fundamental prerogative of the majority leader, and this responsibility is typically carried out in consultation with the minority leader.

http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/R43563.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages, 452.21 KB].

Americans' Privacy Strategies Post-Snowden. Pew Research Center. Lee Rainie and Mary Madden. March 16, 2015.

It has been nearly two years since the first disclosures of government surveillance programs by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden and Americans are still coming to terms with how they feel about the programs and how to live in light of them. The documents leaked by Snowden revealed an array of activities in dozens of intelligence programs that collected data from large American technology companies, as well as the bulk collection of phone "metadata" from telecommunications companies that officials say are important to protecting national security. The notable findings in the survey fall into two broad categories: 1) the ways people have personally responded in light of their awareness of the government surveillance programs and 2) their views about the way the programs are run and the people who should be targeted by government surveillance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/03/PI_AmericansPrivacyStrategies_0316151.pdf [PDF format, 37 pages, 864.1 KB].

Recognising Informality in the China–Africa Natural Resource Trade. International Institute for Environment and Development. Xiaoxue Weng. March 2015.

The backgrounder gives an overview of how understanding informal small-scale trade and investment can promote pro-poor and sustainable resource governance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17286IIED.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages, 322.5 KB].

International Drug Control Policy: Background and U.S. Responses. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Liana W. Rosen. March 16, 2015.

The global illegal drug trade represents a multi-dimensional challenge that has implications for U.S. national interests as well as the international community. Common illegal drugs trafficked internationally include cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. According to the U.S. intelligence community, international drug trafficking can undermine political and regional stability and bolster the role and capabilities of transnational criminal organizations in the drug trade. Key regions of concern include Latin America and Afghanistan, which are focal points in U.S. efforts to combat the production and transit of cocaine and heroin, respectively. Drug use and addiction have the potential to negatively affect the social fabric of communities, hinder economic development, and place an additional burden on national public health infrastructures.

[PDF format, 42 pages, 597.04 KB].

Item#16
The U.S. Tsunami Program: A Brief Overview. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Peter Folger. March 18, 2015.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Weather Service(NWS) manages two tsunami warning centers that monitor, detect, and issue warnings for tsunamis. The NWS operates the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) at Ewa Beach, Hawaii, and the National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) at Palmer, Alaska. The tsunami warning centers monitor and evaluate data from seismic networks and determine if a tsunami is likely based on the location, magnitude, and depth of an earthquake. The centers monitor coastal water-level data, typically with tide-level gauges, and data from NOAA's network of Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) detection buoys to confirm that a tsunami has been generated or to cancel any warnings if no tsunami is detected. As of January 20, 2015, 12 of the United States' 39 DART buoys were not operational. According to NOAA, the inoperable stations would not prevent the issuance of tsunami warnings, which are primarily a function of seismic data from an earthquake or landslide, combined with location information about the event. However, lacking these stations could mean the warnings encompass a larger area than would be the case if all stations were operating, and it could lengthen the time a warning remains in effect.

http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/R41686.pdf [PDF format, 16 pages, 564.08 KB].

Item#17
Internet Seen as Positive Influence on Education but Negative on Morality in Emerging and Developing Nations. Pew Research Center. March 19, 2015.

As more people around the world gain access to all the tools of the digital age, the internet will play a greater role in everyday life. And so far, people in emerging and developing nations say that the increasing use of the internet has been a good influence in the realms of education, personal relationships and the economy. But despite all the benefits of these new technologies, on balance people are more likely to say that the internet is a negative rather than a positive influence on morality, and they are divided about its effect on politics.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/03/Pew-Research-Center-Technology-Report-FINAL-March-19-20151.pdf [PDF format, 77 pages, 653.45 KB].

Item#18
'Mothers Schools' to Working With Police: Women Prevent Violent Extremism. U.S. Institute of Peace. Viola Gienger. March 18, 2015.

The helplessness pours out of a crying mother in India, so silenced by patriarchal traditions that she's afraid to speak up about the risk that her son might be drawn to radicalism. Continents away in Nigeria, police officers are ashamed to admit the poor working conditions that weaken their ability and motivation to protect their communities. The seemingly disparate scenes are elements of the same

puzzle – how to combat violent extremism. And in both countries, local women activists are putting the pieces together.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.usip.org/olivebranch/2015/03/18/mothers-schools-working-police-women-prevent-violent-extremism [HTML format, various paging].

2015 Brown Center Report on American Education: How Well Are American Students Learning?
Brookings Institution.

The 2015 Brown Center Report (BCR) represents the 14th edition of the series since the first issue was published in 2000. It includes three studies. Like all previous BCRs, the studies explore independent topics but share two characteristics: they are empirical and based on the best evidence available. The studies in this edition are on the gender gap in reading, the impact of the Common Core State Standards — English Language Arts on reading achievement, and student engagement.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/reports/2015/03/bcr/2015-brown-center-report_final.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages, 800.86 KB].

Tuberculosis – A Complex Health Threat. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Phillip Nieburg et al. March 24, 2015.

The pervasiveness of global tuberculosis (TB) poses a particular set of challenges to policymakers. In order to make the necessary strategic decisions, it is essential to understand how the disease works and its impact on individuals, families, communities, and broader global health goals. The primer lays out the basics for a nontechnical audience to give policymakers the information they need to make informed and accurate decisions about the future of U.S. TB control efforts.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/150324_Nieburg_TBComplexHealthThreat_PrePubVersion_Web.pdf
[PDF format, 13 pages, 2.14 MB].